



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://latchildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, March 17, 2014

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-1442)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi,
Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Patricia Curry,
Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Sydney Kamlager,
Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Helen Kleinberg,
Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Commissioner Becky
A. Shevlin and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Vice Chair Steven M. Olivas Esq.
and Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW

Call to Order. (14-1205)

Chair Berger called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of March 17, 2014 meeting attendees. (14-1204)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the March 17, 2014 Meeting Agenda. (14-1206)

**On motion of Commissioner Shevlin, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg
(Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Konigar-Macklin, Sorkin, and Vice Chairs
Friedman and Olivas being absent), this item was approved.**

DRAFT

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of March 3, 2014. (14-1215)

On motion of Commissioner Sunny Kang, seconded by Commissioner Franzen (Commissioners Konigar-Macklin, Sorkin, and Vice Chairs Friedman and Olivas being absent), this item was approved. Commissioners Kleinberg and Shevlin abstained.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for March 17, 2014 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (14-1207)

Chair Berger reported the following:

- **The filing deadline for the Statement of Economic Interests Annual 2013/2014 is Tuesday, April 1, 2014. Staff has provided the forms to be filled out. If you have any additional questions, you may contact staff.**
- **Commissioners were sent an email regarding mandatory online County trainings. Please advise staff if additional information is needed.**
- **The Commission's 30th Anniversary is on May 8, 2014. Please send any suggestions you may have for commemorating the anniversary to Sylvia Drew Ivie.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection Friedman (Commissioner Konigar Macklin, Sorkin, and Vice Chairs Friedman and Olivas being absent), this item was received and filed.

5. DCFS Director's report for March 17, 2014 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (14-1208)

Director Browning reported the following:

- **The new 52 week CSW Academy has had positive feedback. Supervisors and existing staff will be providing a shorter version of the training.**
- **Representatives from Google and IBM have met with Judge Michael Nash, presiding judge of the Juvenile Court to identify ways to improve the data monitoring of psychotropic medication for children in the child welfare system.**

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- **DCFS has been invited to participate in a Title IV E Waiver (Waiver) conference in Texas.**
 - **Celebration '14 honoring the academic achievements of Foster Youth will be held on June 19, 2014 at the Music Center.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioner Sorkin, and Vice Chairs Friedman and Olivas being absent), this item was received and filed.

6. Update on the Commission's activities.

- **Sylvia Drew Ivie, Commission Executive Liaison (14-0484)**

Ms. Drew Ivie reported on meetings she has attended, Commissioner's activities, and involvement with Community Organizations and Workgroups:

- **Chair Berger, Commissioners Kleinberg and Cooper met with Judge Michael Nash on issues relating to court sanctions.**
- **Commissioners Kleinberg, Sorkin and Franzen continue to work on visitation issues through a Workgroup, which is composed of DCFS staff, co-chairs of the DCFS' Strategic Plan Visitation Workgroup, and representatives of local community based organizations.**
- **Commissioner Curry has been working with Bill Gould of First 5 LA in relation to increasing awareness of Parent Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT). Ms. Drew Ivie and Commissioners Franzen and Trevino Powell attended a demonstration of a PCIT session.**
- **Ms. Drew Ivie attended all of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection meetings, and distributed a summary of the meetings to the Commission.**
- **Commissioner Sorkin, a delegate for the System Leadership Team (SLT) and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Plan Ad hoc Committee, continues to actively participate by attending meetings. Commissioners' input and suggestions were communicated to the Ad hoc Committee for consideration. Chair Berger plans to attend the next SLT meeting in Commissioner Sorkin's absence.**

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- **Ms. Drew Ivie and Commissioner Kleinberg attended meetings relating to the zero to five population and early developmental issues.**
 - **Ms. Drew Ivie continues to follow Child sex trafficking legislative developments.**
 - **Ms. Drew Ivie has been working with Commissioner Curry on issues relating to dual certification for foster parents. Inclusive, Commissioner Curry has been working closely with DCFS as well.**
 - **Commissioner Curry held meetings with Imagine LA and First 5 LA, pertaining to the prevention of homelessness for families in the child welfare system through housing and family supportive services. Successful outcomes have been evident in Imagine LA's work with approximately 25 at-risk families.**
 - **Commissioner Curry continues to work with the DCFS/Probation Independent Living Program (ILP) Budget Committee on efforts to ensure funding is available for youth aging out of the Probation and/or of DCFS' system, including support services and funding for higher education.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioner Sorkin, and Vice Chairs Friedman and Olivas being absent), this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATION

7. Presentation by the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation on the Title IV-E Waiver.
 - Alan Weisbart, Children's Services Administrator II, DCFS Title IV-E Waiver Program
 - Adam Bettino, Director of the Probation Title IV-E Waiver Program (14-1213)

Mr. Weisbart distributed a document titled, "Title IV-E Waiver Fact Sheet" and reported the following:

- **Title IV-E Waiver (Waiver) period ranges from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2012. The County is currently in its second bridge period which expires on June 30, 2014. The terms and conditions remain intact.**

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- A new part of the Waiver includes two cohorts, Los Angeles and Alameda Counties will be Cohort 1 and any other counties entering the Waiver will be Cohort 2.
 - California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is currently involved in Waiver extension negotiations. The extension is expected to begin October 1, 2014. The base year and funding amount for Los Angeles County are undetermined. The County is requesting the base year and growth factor remain the same for Cohort 1. Cohort 2 has 2008/09 as the base year.
 - DCFS Waiver Initiatives include:
 - Youth Permanency
 - Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP)
 - Up-front Assessments
 - In-house Legal County Counsel
 - Emergency Response Staffing
 - Expanded Team Decision Making with Permanency Planning Conferences
 - Countywide Youth Education Project
 - CDSS selected four project service components with 16 County Interventions/Core Waiver strategies:
 - Prevention
 - Family Engagement
 - Evidence-Based Interventions
 - Aftercare Services

Many of the Waivers strategies are currently incorporated in DCFS practices. Wraparound is emphasized during the Waiver extension as a major component of the Katie A. Settlement.

- Forty to fifty percent of the Waiver funding is allocated towards placement of children, staffing, and existing contracts. Allocation towards new initiatives is yet to be determined pending the conclusion of the Waiver terms and conditions. A decision is expected within April. All Waivers are slated to end in September of 2019.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, DCFS responded with the following:

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- Mr. Weisbart explained that reinvestment funds for 2013/14 are at approximately \$30 million in net county costs set aside in a Provisional Funding Uses (PFU) account.

Director Browning clarified that the funds set aside in the PFU account are likely not be reinvestment funds due to spending requirements of the Waiver. The Waiver agreement stipulates that federal, state and county funding allocation be spent in order to impact the evaluation. It is unclear whether the \$30 million is a savings amount or an amount the county has set aside. The County is unable to draw down the federal portion until the accompanying amounts are spent.

- Mr. Weisbart explained that the funds in the PFU account are net County costs and do not include federal or state funds. Some under expenditure amounts were placed in the PFU account.

Director Browning explained that reinvestment only occurs if there is a savings. The intent is to spend the reinvestment funds during its Waiver period. Finance staff will need to be present in order to provide clarification and accounting detail.

- Director Browning explained that a fair amount of the Waiver was spent on staffing, in order to lower Children's Social Worker (CSW) caseloads. The Waiver savings allocation also went towards; Public Health Nurses, County Counsels located in DCFS offices, increased funding for Family Preservation contracts, and increasing emergency shelter beds. The Waiver extension is expected to not exceed the current allocation. On an annual basis, the Department is on track in terms of expenditures. Funding has been set aside for Differential Response and towards initiatives to keep existing foster parents from leaving the system. Some of the evidence-based initiatives being considered are dependent on the Waiver extension terms remaining at current funding levels.

The Commission requested a breakdown of the Waiver reinvestment amounts spent in 2013/14 and the methodology in which these initiatives were chosen and measured.

Mr. Weisbart reported the following 2013/14 Title IV-E Budget categorized by Outcomes including the programs located under each category:

- Safety - \$1.1 Billion:
 - PIDP;
 - Differential Response;

- Aftercare services;
 - County Counsel; and
 - Support and operations
- **Permanency - \$753 million:**
 - Placements, including adoptions and Kin-Gap;
 - Staffing;
 - Aftercare services;
 - Family Preservation, including other contracts for Permanency; and
 - Support and operations
- **Well-being - \$67 million, a significant amount is allocated to older youth.**
 - 34% allocated to staffing;
 - Client transportation and housing;
 - Youth Development Services (YDS); and
 - Independent Living Program (ILP)

The majority of Title IV-E funding was allocated towards Placements.

Director Browning explained that available reinvestment funds may be allocated to any Waiver eligible activity and clarified that the 2013/14 Waiver allocation was not underspent by \$30 million.

Mr. Weisbart explained that a joint DCFS/Probation evaluation was conducted at the close of the first Waiver period and offered to submit the report to the Commission.

Adam Bettino distributed a document titled, “Title IV-E Child Welfare Capped Allocation Demonstration Project (CADP), Los Angeles County Probation Department”, and reported the following:

- The breakdown provided in the document includes current Waiver strategies. There is approximately \$12 million in Waiver Savings. The Waiver provided Probation the opportunity to use funding in ways that were previously not possible. Some of these initiatives include; Functional Family Therapy, Functional Family Probation, and Multi-Systemic Therapy.
- The goal moving forward is to build comprehensive evaluations for the next Waiver period.
- During the five-year period, Probation focused efforts on creating

Aftercare Services. Since, 2007 the out-of-home care placements have decreased by more than 40%. Probation's Group Home population is at a low of 800 youth. The average length of stay has decreased to approximately 20% compared to the baseline period. Although there are less youth in care, it is inconclusive whether these youth are better off. The focus moving forward is to evaluate this.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioner Sorkin, and Vice Chairs Friedman and Olivas being absent), this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [DCFS SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
 [PROBATION SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-1209)

There were none.

Announcements

9. Announcements for the meeting of March 17, 2014. (14-1210)

There were none.

Public Comment

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-1211)

Sister Marjorie Shelvy of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

11. Adjournment of the meeting of March 17, 2014. (14-1212)

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 a.m.